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Father's Day
Sunday, June 21

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

SBC in Salt Lake City

All-state choir to perform

NOBTS announces grads

Letters to the Editor

THE BAPTIST Record

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Miss. pastor selected for conference post

SALT LAKE CITY (Special) — Tom Atwood, pastor of First Church, Oxford, was elected first vice-president of the 1998 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which met last week prior to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Also elected during the annual conference were Mike Hamlet, pastor of North Spartanburg First Church in Spartanburg, S.C., as first-term president; and Paul Purvis, secretary, pastor of First Church, Conyers, Ga.

All three men were elected by acclamation.

Sounding an unwavering commitment to the supremacy of Christ while meeting in the heart of Mormon country, speakers at the conference addressed the theme, "Jesus: No Other Name."

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and three former SBC presidents were among featured speakers during the two-day conference held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Huckabee, a former Arkansas Baptist pastor, emphasized that God, not government, is the only way to provide lasting answers to America's problems.

"Our problems are not just social ills, they're soul problems," he declared.

"The real issue confronting this culture is sin and recognizing that sin...is really the ultimate disease. The course of action we have to take is not so much to bring them to a new law if we are in government...but confront people and bring them to a new Lord," Huckabee said.

Former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, and Ed Young offered fellow pastors personal insights on various aspects of the preaching ministry.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tenn., cited moral, doctrinal, and devotional integrity as the three pillars of support he relies on to preach God's message.

"I'd rather be a Baptist preacher than anything on the face of this earth," he declared. "Thank God for the ability to preach the glorious gospel."

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., admonished the pastors to deliver "heart-anointed preaching."

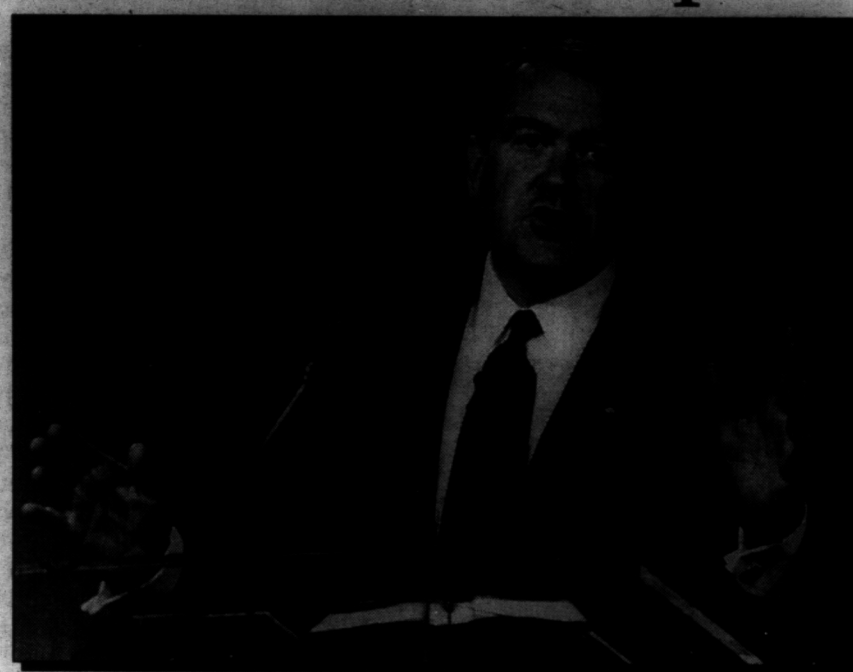
Preaching empowered by the Holy Spirit must come through a pastor who first has searched his own heart, Vines said.

Ed Young, pastor of Second Church in Houston, Texas, also shared from personal experience as he answered questions from conference participants.

Ronnie Floyd, who served last year as Pastors' Conference



Atwood



Huckabee

president, warned that attempting to be too much like the secular culture has left the American church lost in a haze without direction.

"There is a strange haze over the church of Jesus Christ in America today," said Floyd, pastor of First Church of Springdale, Ark.

Pastors "have the challenge of navigating the church through this strange haze," which Floyd said comes from "the fires of our culture, the power Satan is ushering all through our culture."

Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas, expressed belief in the imminent second coming of Jesus Christ.

"I have observed that the people who do the most for him today are those who are thinking about tomorrow," he said, adding that whatever

changes churches and individuals need to make to glorify Jesus, "now is the time."

Florida evangelist Jay Strack offered tips on "how to make a name for yourself."

"I believe we need to ask God to show us, 'How can I make a name for myself without being overly ambitious, without being fleshly, carnal or selfish,'" he remarked.

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church of Woodstock, Ga., said Christians should strive to live lives that are worthy of attracting attention from a world that is radically different from a Christian lifestyle.

Hunt encouraged pastors to press on when they are in settings or situations they don't like. "I know the Lord Jesus can give you an increased appetite for what you feel you can't stomach much longer," he said.

SBC to move 2000 meeting?

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) messengers voted to refer to the executive committee a June 9 motion asking, "in light of the Disney boycott," that efforts be made to move the 2000 site of the annual meeting from Orlando, Fla., to New York City.

The Committee on Order of Business recommended referring the motion to the executive committee rather than asking messengers to act on the motion. Messengers agreed to the referral.

Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Buena Park, Calif., proposed the motion. Drake, whose church is located a few miles from Disneyland, has been an outspoken proponent of Southern Baptists' boycott against the Disney Company. At the 1996 SBC annual meeting, Drake spearheaded a successful effort to toughen the language of a resolution that laid the groundwork for the 1997 boycott.

Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news for the executive committee, said the proposal to relocate may present problems since three major contracts have already been signed with hotels in Orlando and a letter of agreement has been signed with the Orlando Convention Center.

Drake said he would decide next year, after hearing the executive committee's report, whether to attend the convention if it is not relocated.

Looking back

10 years ago

With only a 692-vote majority, Jerry Vines is elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention over Richard Jackson, assuring the continuation of the Conservative Resurgence in the convention. More than 31,000 votes were cast in the presidential election.

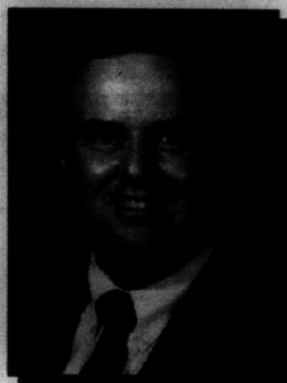
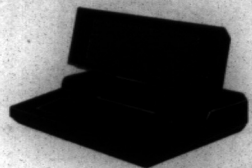
20 years ago

Almost 23,000 Southern Baptists, the largest ever, approve a \$75 million Cooperative Program budget — also the largest ever — at the annual meeting in Atlanta. Messengers re-elect Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, as president.

50 years ago

Toccopola Junction in Pontotoc County did not have a church, but they did have a "honky-tonk." After a young man was shot and killed there, local citizens, led by associational missionary R. B. Patterson, closed the establishment and started a church with 65 members in the same building.

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The real story? Not in the news media

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting last week in Salt Lake City voted in favor of amending the Baptist Faith and Message for the first time in 35 years, to include a section on family.

Some folks liked it; some folks were dead set against it. That's acceptable, since everyone has a right to be for or against anything they please. When the voting was over, however, the amendment passed and is now an official part of the unofficial document that defines the essence of what it means to be Southern Baptist.

Taken as a whole, the document is at the least an attempt to document how Southern Baptists feel about the issue of family in a culture that is "dumbing down" the definition as rapidly as possible.

However, the most incredible — and instructive — part of the amendment story is how the secular media reported it. Incredible, because they got it so wrong. Instructive, because the single-issue reporting betrayed the biased and politically-correct atmosphere in which the secular media function.

Despite language that included such phrases as, "The husband and wife are of equal worth before God," and "A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church," news media focused on one tiny portion of the amendment and did their best to interpret it out of context with a secular spin.

The lone portion that received the overwhelming majority of media attention was, "A wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband."

Even allowing for the argument that usage of the word "graciously" was unfortunate and possibly extra-biblical, most Christians understand the role of the wife in concert with the role of the husband (Eph. 5).

As a Mississippi woman observed in a telephone call to the offices of The Baptist

Record after the amendment passed, "I don't know a Christian wife who would not 'submit' to the godly leadership of a Christian husband who really walked the walk and not just talked the talk."

That's an excellent point and an object lesson for us Christian husbands, but for the news media the whole point of the amendment seemed to be centered around the wild assertion that the amendment would lead to the subjugation and abuse of women.

That was all the pack journalists needed. Media outlets from The New York Times to "Larry King Live" picked up the story, as faulty as was the premise. With little research and virtu-

ally no attempt at understanding, the media informed the country that Southern Baptists were in favor of domineering, violently-patriarchal relationships.

To be sure, there are violent and abusive relationships which no person should be required to endure, and some spouses have likely received poor advice from their pastors regarding such relationships, but nothing could be farther from the truth in terms of the intent of the amendment.

Whether one was for or against the amendment, it is obvious that Southern

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

ARTICLE XVIII

"God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

"Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

"The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

"A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family.

"A wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being 'in the image of God' as her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his 'helper' in managing her household and nurturing the next generation.

"Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents."

Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Josh. 24:15; 1 Sam. 1:26-28; Ps. 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Prov. 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Eccl. 4:9-12; 9:9; Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:14; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7."

Baptists were mischaracterized and cast in a pejorative light. That should upset all of us.

Southern Baptists now have their own parochial example of why news media are consistently ranked at the bottom of surveys listing the most trustworthy professions in America.

The next time you see or read a negative news media portrayal of a group — any group, in any media — you might want to remember your recent experience as a Southern Baptist.

Then go out and get the real story.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



The future I fear

By Carl M. White,
Associate Editor

mation. No vote. No ballot. No choice.

Since the beginning of the Controversy, a winner-take-all attitude has dominated each election, even when it was a near 50/50 split. This attitude was clearly illustrated when Dan Walker of Utah nominated Ken Barnett of Colorado as registration secretary over longtime veteran Lee Porter. In his nomination speech, Walker said of Barnett, "he's one of us."

Of course, the implication is that Lee Porter, who has served as registration secretary for 21 years, is not.

In all fairness to Patterson, he handled himself extremely well in the post-election press conference. He is intelligent, articulate, tactful, and disarmingly humorous. He handled well the tough and the puff

questions. His commitment to evangelism and missions is self-evident and commendable.

However, there was one thing Patterson said that is a serious miscalculation. He said, in essence, if you are a Bible-believing, missions and evangelism-committed Southern Baptist, you'll eventually be happy with the direction and leadership of the convention.

In other words, you might as well get used to us, we are in control. I don't think so.

Someone asked me to describe this year's convention. "Schizophrenic" is the word that comes to mind. On one hand, there was something very special happening all up and down the Great Salt Lake Valley as Southern Baptists shared the Gospel with men and women of all persuasions.

On the other hand, there were the convention sessions. Many of the speakers were, in a word, gloating. How many more years do we get to hear a handful of men pat each other on the back and congratulate each other for saving us from ourselves?

Just last year at the convention in Dallas, it was declared that the battle for the Bible was won. This year in Salt Lake City, it was declared that the battle must be perpetually fought.

It is time for grassroots, mom-and-pop Baptists to go back to the convention — not to vote a political strategy, but to vote prayerful, heartfelt convictions.

Maybe one day history will say that men like Paige Patterson, Paul Pressler, Charles Stanley, and Adrian Rogers did save a great convention from ruinous mistakes. Only time will tell.

I am convinced, however, that we need to save them from the equally ruinous mistake of gloating themselves into an empty convention with splintered state conventions and faltering institutions.

If some magnanimity in victory and graciousness in attitude toward fellow Baptists doesn't emerge from our leadership, that is the future I fear.

Dobson warns SBC of dangers of 'moral relativism'

SALT LAKE CITY (Special) — Warning that "moral relativism has slithered into our midst and even into the church," James Dobson emphasized today's society is "suffering from the disease of sin."

Dobson, a psychologist with a national radio and television audience totaling 28 million people weekly, was the keynote speaker for the closing session of this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Dobson, who champions conservative Christian social and moral issues, has been described as "one of the most potent political power brokers in America today." His "Focus on the Family" radio broadcast is the nation's No. 1 program on Christian radio.

Noting that "society is split now into two broad camps that are in a civil war of values," Dobson said the two camps are those who believe God is and those who believe God isn't.

"If God does not exist, everything changes and you make up your rules as you go along," he

explained. "You set your national policy on the basis of public opinion polls. When life is inconvenient, you get rid of it, whether it be for the unborn or the deformed or the elderly."

"These two world views are in collision," he said, adding that he fears the post-modern perspective "is winning the culture despite the hard work of those of us who passionately believe otherwise."

Detailing specific examples, Dobson said "it's not even a misdemeanor" to abort "a fully viable, healthy baby," yet "it is still a \$25,000 fine to kill an eagle's egg."

Dobson cited other troubling issues ranging from recent acts of youth violence in Jonesboro, Ark., and other communities, to Internet pornography and rampant sexual perversion.

"My concern is the watering down of the gospel and of eliminating references to sin and that which makes us uncomfortable," he declared.

"Much of what Jesus said is confrontational. It is not easy. The cross was not a pleasant

theme — especially when you read that we're supposed to carry it too....Some of what is in this book is not seeker friendly. It is confrontational."

Voicing appreciation for Southern Baptists' stands in the face of moral relativism, Dobson praised their recent opposition to Disney, homosexuality and a gender-neutral Bible.

"I have enormous respect for your movement and for your love for the Lord," he told convention messengers.

Quoting the words of Moses from Deuteronomy 30:19, Dobson concluded, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life so that you and your children may live."



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE



Dobson

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**Father's
Day**

Sunday, June 21

Southern Baptists convene in Salt Lake City

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Southern Baptists, meeting June 9-11 in Salt Lake City — near the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — elected an architect of the Conservative Resurgence as president, passed an article on the family, and engaged in an array of evangelistic initiatives before and during the 141st session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Paige Patterson, a leading figure in the 20-year drive to turn the convention in a conservative direction, is the SBC's new president, elected by acclamation.

The Southeastern Seminary president succeeds Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., who served the traditional pair of one-year terms in the denomination's highest elective office.

Patterson said he would emphasize evangelism and church planting during his presidency. He described a personal goal for the convention to baptize 500,000 in the United States and 500,000 overseas in the year 2000.

Though elected without opposition, Patterson is a controversial figure among the 16-million members of the Southern Baptists, due to his leadership in the Conservative Resurgence.

In a press conference after his election, Patterson indicated he was aware that there were some conservative Southern Baptists who did not appreciate the methodology of the past 20 years, but he said he felt people who believe the Bible and are committed to the cause of Christ will be increasingly happy with the SBC.

"If people are enthusiastic about missions and evangelism, they're probably going to feel pretty good about this," he said, referring to his election.

"Those with serious questions about the validity and veracity of certain portions of the Word and who do not have a deep commitment to missions are going to be less happy with the Southern Baptist Convention of the 21st century," he added.

In an effort to enhance the SBC's image as a purveyor of family values, the messengers overwhelmingly approved an addition to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message, declaring in part, "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime." (See full text on opposite page.)

The new BFM article also notes, "The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. ... A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. ... A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ."

As an accent to the emphasis on family, the convention closed with an hour-long address by James Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family, an international ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colo. (See article above.)

Dobson, a member of the Church of the Nazarene, thanked the SBC for its defense of the family.

In the home base of the Mormon church, some 2,200 Southern Baptist volunteers blanketed the area conducting block parties and doing door-to-door witnessing in the annual pre-convention Crossover evangelistic emphasis.

In all, more than 1,000 professions of faith were recorded. The Crossover effort was supported by a North American Mission Board (NAMB)-sponsored media campaign, including several television spots. One spot featured Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton.

NAMB reported over 5,600 people called the toll-free number in response to the advertisements offering a free "Jesus" video. Many Mississippians were involved in the Crossover events, including a group of 18 college students and ministers.

Other highlights of the 1998 SBC include: — Rick Ferguson of Colorado was elected first vice-president, along with Mike Gray of Utah as second vice-president.

Paul Blanchard, director of missions for Winston Association, was a second vice-

president candidate but finished out of the running with about 18% of initial balloting.

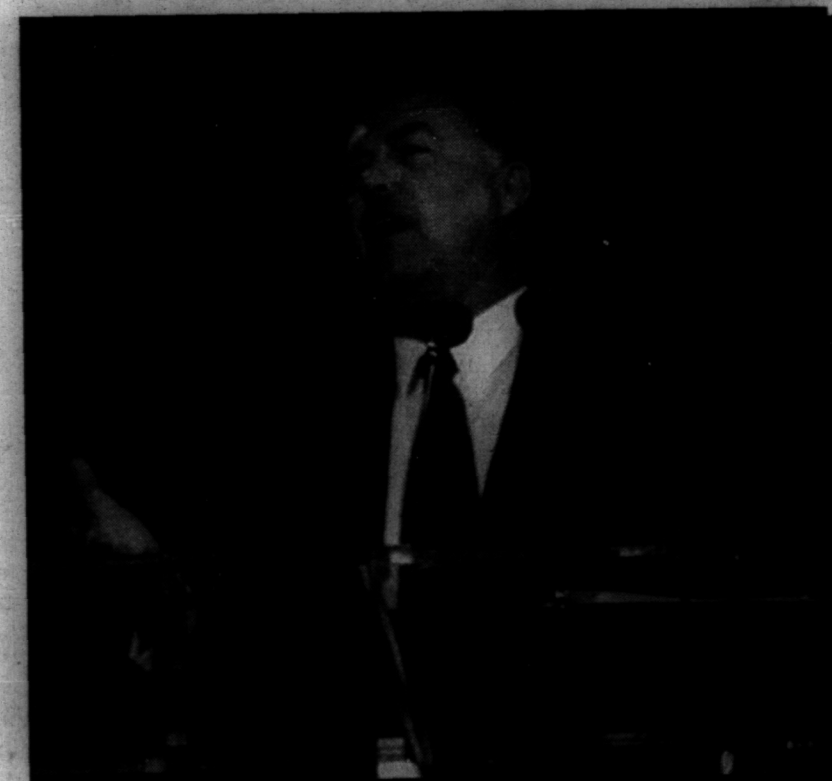
— John Yeats and Lee Porter were re-elected as recording and registration secretaries, respectively.

♦ Messengers approved a shortening of the convention from three days to two, beginning next year in Atlanta.

♦ The name change of the Baptist Sunday School Board to LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC was approved.

♦ The SBC registered its one millionth messenger: Jennette C. Briggs of University Church, Fort Worth.

The last SBC annual meeting of this century will occur June 15-16, 1999, in Atlanta, Ga.



SINGING OUT — L. Graham Smith, director of the church music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, leads congregational singing at the June 11 morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Smith was the sole Mississippi representative on the three-day meeting's program. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Messengers reduce annual meeting days

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted June 9 to reduce their annual meeting from three days to two beginning in 1999. Convention sessions will end Wednesday night rather than Thursday at noon.

The action took place during the Executive Committee's report at the June 9 opening session of the SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City's Salt Palace Convention Center.

Messengers approved appropriate amendments to the SBC constitution and bylaws to enable messengers to conduct business in two days rather than three.

Time was reserved on Wednesday afternoons for "seminary luncheons and other necessary meetings." As part of the recommendation messengers deleted SBC Bylaw 14 which stated the denominational press would be given a permanent place on the SBC annual program. In response to a question, messengers were told the denominational press report would be a part of the Executive Committee report.

WMU meeting focuses on peacemaker role

SALT LAKE CITY (Special) — It has been nearly 2,000 years since Jesus charged his followers to be peacemakers. Last week, members of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) focused on the need to take those words personally in a modern world.

The 1,190 registered participants at the June 7-8 WMU annual meeting heard firsthand accounts of how God is at work bringing his peace to troubled areas of the world and received pointed challenges to be about the work of peace in their own part of the world.

"People, when are we going to reject the insanity of all this (violence)?" American Baptist preacher Tony Campolo asked in a rousing closing address. "When are we going to be the peacemakers the Bible calls us to be?"

Campolo's address capped a two-day focus on "Peace Builders" by WMU members meeting in Salt Lake City prior to the 1998 Southern Baptist Convention. The focus included testimonies from missionaries in places like Rwanda, South Africa, and parts of the United States and launch of the organization's latest emphasis — a two-year effort to help stop the wave of violence in this nation and Bosnia.

"Peace is not just an absence of war," Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said in her annual report. "It is living together justly and harmoniously."

Urging women to become personal peacemakers, O'Brien noted that South African cleric Desmond Tutu and others have called for the year 2000 to be the year of education for non-violence.

"Nothing could be more worthwhile for the world as we enter the next millennium," she said.

O'Brien referred to the New Testament

"The time invested in peace building is always blessed," O'Brien said, noting that WMU members reaching out to AIDS patients and their families when that was not popular involved risk.

"Your compassion was greater than your fear of having your motives impugned," she pointed out.

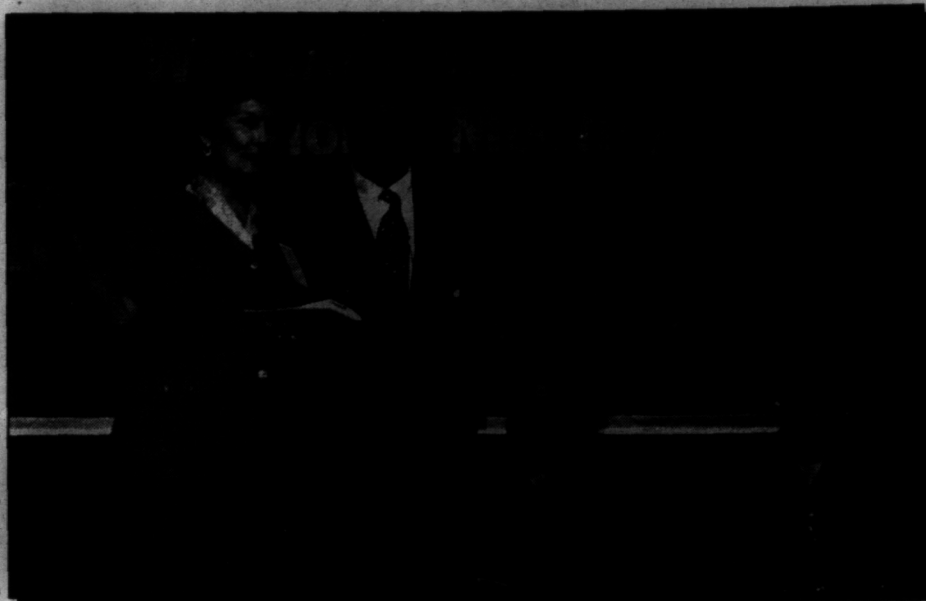
O'Brien pointed to other WMU activities as well — serving the poor through the Christian Women's Job Corps, going into the world on volunteer mission trips and preparing for a two-year Project Help: Violence focus on the United States. During the 1998-2000 emphasis, women will be urged to do what they can to be peace builders.

In business action, WMU members re-elected their national officers, President Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., and Recording Secretary Janet Hoffman of Bernice, La.

WMU members passed with no dissenting votes a resolution pledging to take practical steps to be peacemakers.

"Woman's Missionary Union organizationally, and each of us personally, pledge ourselves to take practical steps to overcome and do away with these evils that strike at the very core of what it means to be human, created in the image of God, and persons for whom Christ died," the resolution reads.

"We commit ourselves to a full range of peace-building efforts, from meaningful partnerships with congregations of different ethnic make-up to influencing and changing public policy, nationally and internationally, that could alleviate the suffering of victims of racial and religious persecution."



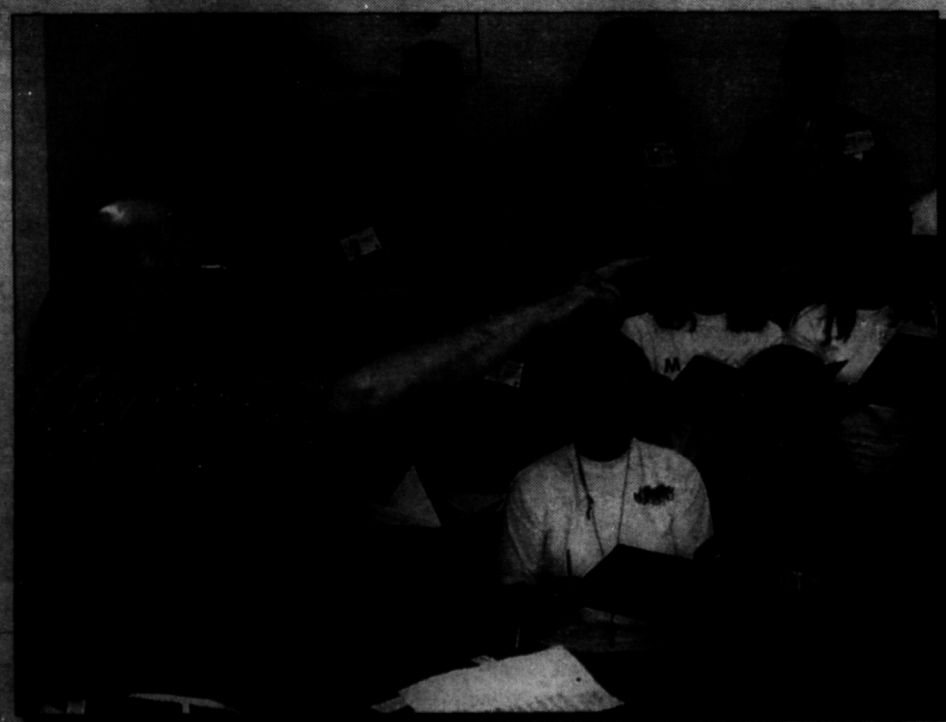
WALKING & PRAYING — Rebecca Williams (left), president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and Stan Lee (second from left), a Southern Baptist missionary to Rwanda, address the national WMU meeting in Salt Lake City about their prayerwalking participation while in Salt Lake City. During each WMU session, three missionaries would share about their work, then someone would join each of them and pray over the needs they had mentioned plus a variety of other needs. As they prayed, they walked across the stage, down the steps, and into the audience. (WMU special photo)

figure of Barnabas, who sought peace in a difficult time, she said. His approach was to commit his time, to act intentionally and to rely on the grace of God.

She pointed out that Barnabas ministered in a time when Christianity had not yet developed as a system. "You would think that almost 2,000 years later, we would have all the details worked out," she said.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. However, O'Brien reminded her listeners that WMU is seeking to follow Barnabas' example and take the risk of building peace.

All-state Youth Choir sets tour



LEADING REHEARSAL — Richard Joiner (left), director of the 1998 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and head of the Department of Music at Mississippi College in Clinton, directs rehearsal at William Carey College in Hattiesburg in preparation for the choir's 1998 tour. The young people will perform June 19 at First Church, Pascagoula, 7 p.m.; June 21 at First Church, Picayune, 11 a.m., and at First Church, Crystal Springs, 7 p.m.; June 22 at First Church, Bruce, 7 p.m.; June 23 at First Church, Jackson, 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. (Photo by Carl M. White)

SBC messengers give approval to SSB's Lifeway name change

SALT LAKE CITY (Special) — The name of the Sunday School Board (SSB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was changed last week to LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC, by vote of messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City.

During the same opening session of this year's annual meeting, two messengers made motions concerning changing the name of the SBC itself.

David G. Pope of One Heart Church in Rome, N.Y., asked that the SBC executive committee be directed to conduct a feasibility study on changing the convention's name. A second motion from Orville Kool of Southern Hills Church of Sioux City, Iowa, suggested the name "Baptist Convention of North America."

However, Kool noted that if his proposed name presented legal problems, then the committee be instructed to present an alternate, legally appropriate name that "will reflect cultural sensitivity and will be a more accurate description of where our churches and missions are located."

Both motions were referred by messengers to the executive committee for its consideration.

A second vote will be required next year on the name change for the Sunday School Board. However, the vote taken this year authorized the publishing agency to make the change effective immediately.

The Sunday School Board has operated under that name since its founding in 1891. President Jimmy Draper told messengers that was the best name for the agency when it was founded.

In 1891, the board's only assignment was to publish Sunday School literature, Draper said. But today, the publication of Sunday School literature accounts for only 25% of the board's far-reaching enterprises, he said.

The board's work today includes the publication of books, discipleship materials, youth and children's specialty products, operation of two conference centers, providing support for pastors and other church leaders directly and through national and regional training events, and varied work in multiple languages.

The name LifeWay Christian Resources, taken from the words of Jesus in John 14, more accurately reflects the scope of the board's work, Draper said. "The very name is a witness for Christ."

Draper, George headline Women's Conf.

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — "My identity is not as a pastor's wife, not as the wife of Jimmy Draper, but my identity comes from Jesus alone," Carol Ann Draper said at the second annual Monday morning special women's session held June 8 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Salt Lake City.

Draper, a popular speaker, conference leader, and wife of James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., was one of two featured

speakers addressing approximately 1,300 women. Draper and Jeanette Clift George, director of the AD Players based in Houston, spoke about a woman's identity in Christ.

George, an actress known for her portrayal of Corrie ten Boom in the motion picture version of "The Hiding Place," said, "I thank the Lord I am happily married and I thank him for my husband. I love being his wife, but my identity does not come from him. It comes from the person of Jesus Christ."

Much to the delight of a laughing audience, George used the voices of different characters while telling a half dozen stories illustrating her lack of confidence in her own abilities.

George said she is allergic to make-up, stammers, has trouble remembering words, and has "funny eyes." Despite the problems, she is an actress.

"I spend a lot of time trying to explain to God that he has made a mistake," she chuckled. "That's this person who I am and God loves me. Sometimes God giggles a little, but he loves me."

Encouraging women to be who they are, the way God made them, George said she had a telegram for someone in the audience.

"God loves you. God loves you and sent a telegram to someone here," she repeated.

"There is no other name but Jesus whereby we can have access to the one who values my tears," George said.

"The only thing that gives security is the name of Jesus Christ."

"By his grace I am forever in his book."

Committee on Nominations announced

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Seventy Southern Baptists from 35 state Baptist conventions have been named to serve on the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Committee on Nominations.

The Committee on Nominations will nominate persons to serve on SBC boards, commissions, and committees. They will present their report to the 1999 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta.

The committee is made up of two people from each state convention — one layperson and one in church-related vocational work.

Mississippi representatives on the committee are Randy H. Russell, Jackson ophthalmologist and member of First Church, Jackson; and Dean Stewart, pastor of Corinth Church, Magee.

Rex M. Terry of Fort Smith, Ark., will chair the Committee on Nominations.

Committee on Nominations members are selected by the Committee on Committees.

New Orleans Seminary Miss. graduates listed

Commencement exercises were held at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on May 15. Graduates with Mississippi connections were:

MASTER OF DIVINITY
Shannon D. Marshall, Poplarville, Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville
Edison M. Williams III, Picayune, associate pastor and youth minister, New Henleyfield Southern Baptist Church, Carriere

Shane Price, Corinth, minister of music, youth, and education at Roxie Church, Roxie

MASTER OF DIVINITY IN BIBLICAL LANGUAGES
Jake Roudkovski, Springfield, La., pastor, Woodland, Springfield, La.

Joel Lee Farrow, Selma, Ala., pastor of Fords Creek Church, Poplarville

Roy Adrian Fairchild, Brookhaven, pastor, Mars Hill Church, Summit

MASTER OF DIVINITY WITH SPECIALIZATION IN PASTORAL MINISTRIES
Jerry Jones, Greenwood, minister of music, Sherwood, Baton Rouge, La.

Earnest F. (Frankie) Clark, Waytsboro, pastor, Pleasant Grove, Laurel

Alan House, Jackson, pastor, Roseland Church, Roseland, La.

Michael W. Glenn, Pelahatchie, pastor, Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie

MASTER OF DIVINITY WITH SPECIALIZATION IN BIBLICAL STUDIES
Ronald Mark Wallace, Tuscaloosa, AL, youth minister, New Hope, Foxworth
William L. McDonald, Jackson, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson

MASTER OF DIVINITY IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Victor Hal Granger, Wesson, youth minister, Strong Hope, Wesson

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WITH SPECIALIZATION IN CHURCH GROWTH
Mark A. Farris, Petal, minister of youth and activities, Indian Springs Church, Laurel

MASTER OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING
Tommy W. Smith, Summit, interim pastor, East Fork, Amite County

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Arlen R. Jenkins, Jackson, minister of youth, First Church, Franklinton, La.

Kaye Smith Farrow, Selma, Ala., wife of Joel Lee Farrow, pastor, Fords Creek Church, Poplarville

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WITH SPECIALIZATION IN YOUTH EDUCATION
Teresa Leigh Chandler, Greenville, Parkview Church, Greenville

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CERTIFICATE
Deborah Ivy, Clinton, women's ministry coord., Morrison Hts. Church, Clinton

ASSOC. IN PASTORAL MINISTRIES
Lawrence Millard Moak, Summit, pastor, New Hope Church, Meadville

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES
Timothy Dale Stone, Gulfport, minister of music and education, First Sun, La.

Ronald S. Edwards Jr., Moss Point, minister to students, First, Moss Point

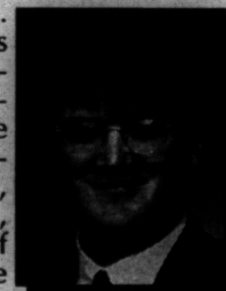
BACHELOR OF ARTS
Weston J. Burnside Jr., Meridian, worship leader, Victory, Hammond, La.

MASTER OF MUSIC IN CHURCH MUSIC
Dale Brian Jemison, Mobile, Ala., minister of music, Woodlawn Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Allen, Copeland receive degrees at SBTS

Southern Seminary awarded degrees to 129 students in its 181st commencement during a May 22 ceremony.

Graduates with Mississippi connections are Ernest Harold Allen, Meridian, associate of arts, the Boyce Bible School; and Philip Larue Copeland, Natchez, doctor of musical arts.



Copeland




SATURDAY, JUNE 27
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
CLINTON, MS
(601) 924-9912

FAMILY FESTIVAL '98

This festival is designed to minister to the needs of:

◆ Senior Adults ◆ Married Adults ◆
◆ Single Adults ◆ Youth ◆ Children ◆
◆ Internationals ◆


Evelyn Gandy


Sam Gore


Matt Blagg


Robertson McQuilkin


John Bewley

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!

Pony Rides
Space Walk
Storyteller
Basketball Contest
Cheerleading Demonstrations
Clown/Face-Painting
Dunking Booth
Magic Show
Missionaries' Booths
Entertainment and much more!!

FREE ADMISSION
FREE CHILD CARE

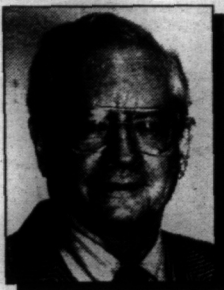
For more information:
Larry Salter or Glenn Shows
(601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Kenneth Adams was ordained to the ministry by Faith Church, Amory, on April 26. On program were Wade Cook, pastor, presented the welcome; Robert Fowlkes, pastor of Lakeside Church, music; Tommy Whaley, pastor of Bigbee Church, presented the charge to the church; and Jim Harrington, director of missions, Monroe Association, delivered the charge to the candidate. A reception was held after the service. Pictured (from left) are Cook, Adams, Harrington, and Whaley.

Joe Robert Abrams, educator and church music minister, died of a heart arrhythmia on May 5, at his home in Moorhead. He taught at Mississippi Delta Community College as a music instructor and chairman of the Fine Arts Department for 36 years and served at First Church, Indianola, as music director. He previously worked



Abrams

for two years for the Florida Baptist Music Department setting up a graded choir program in the churches of Florida, and served as combination music and education director of Superior Avenue Church, Bogalusa, La. He also served in churches around the Delta as a part-time music director. Abrams was the son of the late Joe Abrams, long-time associate editor of The Baptist Record, and Lillian Abrams of Arlington, Texas. Abrams is survived by his wife Jean; daughter, Cathy McBride; son, Wade Abrams, and three grandchildren.



Andy Thomas Stoddard (left) was licensed to the ministry by Concord Church, Rankin Association, on May 3. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and plans to enroll in seminary in 1999. He is currently serving as minister of youth at Concord Church, but is available for pulpit supply. Stoddard may be reached at (601) 948-3563 (home) or 546-2413 (church). Pictured with Stoddard is Tommy May, pastor.



Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recently honored **Merva Rutherford** and **Raymond Smith** for their many years as teachers in the Children's Sunday School Department. Rutherford taught for 45 years and Smith taught for 44 years. They were recognized and presented a plaque in the morning worship. Jerry W. Mixon is pastor.



Victor Hal Granger (right), minister of youth at Strong Hope Church, Wesson, was ordained to the ministry on May 3. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Pictured with Granger is Malcom Massey, interim pastor at Strong Hope Church.

Homecomings

New Ireland, Union: June 28; previous pastors call (601) 774-5400 to schedule minisession for this date; correspondence may be sent to 9397 Hwy. 492, Union MS 39365; W. R. Edgar, pastor.

Mt. Nebo, Collinsville: June 28; 11 a.m. service; noon meal; and memorial service in afternoon; David Sellers and his wife Maureen, Tylertown, guest speaker and music. Bill Freeman, pastor.

Unity, Moselle: June 21; 20th anniversary Allan Nix, director of missions, Jones Association, guest speaker; covered dish lunch in Family Life Building; Douglas Moore, pastor.



Michael R. Smith was recently honored by Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, for faithfulness in serving his home church as interim minister of music and youth. Pictured with Smith is (from left) son Eric, daughters Melissa and Meagan, and wife Selina. Jerry W. Mixon is pastor.

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★ Steeples ★ Renovation
★ Pews and Pulpit
Furniture
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551
Jackson 957-3762



ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS

CHURCH BUSES

#1 MANUFACTURER
COMPETITIVE PRICING

SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.

CLINTON, MS
1-800-423-9826
1-601-924-1982

Jake Hess

in concert at

Alta Woods
Baptist Church
Jackson, MS

July 5, 1998

5:30 p.m.

Jake Hess is probably one of the most dominant personalities in the field of Southern Gospel music. Over his 45 years in the ministry, he has been a part of many leading groups including the John Daniel Quartet, the Sunny South Quartet, and the Melody Masters Quartet, and has had long time relationships with J.D. Sumner, Bill Gaither and Hovie Lister and the Statemen Quartet.

In 1963 he organized one of the first contemporary gospel groups of our time - The Imperials.

Although health problems have troubled him through the years, there is an indestructible "spirit" about him that looks into the face of all odds and shouts a resounding "yes," in spite of unbelievable circumstances.

No wonder he is one of the most loved people in the gospel music field today - a wonderful role model for aspiring young artists.

There is no charge for the concert and a nursery will be provided.
For more information, please contact:
Alta Woods Baptist Church
168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS
(601)372-8651

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 18, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



GET INVOLVED: ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY

What is it? On-To-College Day recognizes each student as they enter classes in the fall. It is observed on a special Sunday of your choice either in July or early August. Included are all students whether they remain in the community or leave home to attend college, and whether beginning college or a returning student. This emphasis typically includes an On-To-College worship service with an optional luncheon.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Plan a Sunday morning worship service in July or early August to recognize all students who are 'on to college' for the fall term.

- Recognize each student, including their name, address, phone number and choice of college in the order of worship and church newsletter.
- Recognize the parents and families of students.
- Recognize all of the college ministry and college workers.
- Recognize the Baptist Student Union Director, if present.
- Recognize the college ministry personnel in your church and community, including teachers and volunteers.

PRAYER COVENANT

- Ask the church to covenant to pray for each student.
- Ask the church to write a note of encouragement to each student.
- Enlist and recognize prayer partners to pray for the students as they begin school.

ON-TO-COLLEGE Day and the BSU

Establishing a relationship between the student and BSU through On-To-College Day encourages the student to visit the BSU when school begins. It also connects the student to a vital spiritual fellowship on campus.

- Invite the BSU to share in On-To-College Day.
- Ask the director or a student representative to share in the program.
- Invite a BSU ensemble or drama team to share in worship.

ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY LUNCHEON

- A luncheon after church is a great time for last good-byes and sharing addresses.
- Make it casual and informal.
- Recognize those leaders that made On-To-College Day a great success.
- Draw names for prayer partners for the fall semester.

NOTE: On-To-College Day can be a part of a Student Awareness Month for churches ministering to college students.



THIS IS A SAMPLE BULLETIN INSERT FOR "ON-TO-COLLEGE" SUNDAY IN JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. Bulletin inserts are available from the Department of Student Work at no charge to your church. Please submit your order form by June 30. You may call in your order by using our toll-free number, 1-800-748-1651.

ORDER FORM FOR ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY INSERTS

Deadline to order - June 30

Quantity _____

Date of Service/Observation _____

ORDERED BY _____ POSITION _____

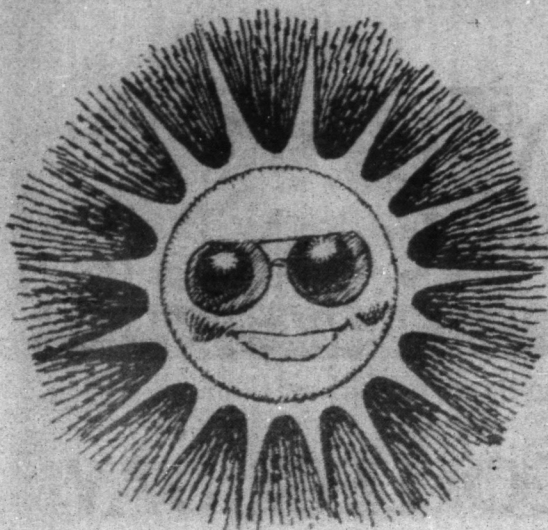
CHURCH NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please give street delivery address.
No P.O. Boxes please.

Phone Number _____



**Saturday
June 27**

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Parkway
Baptist Church,
Clinton**

FAMILY FESTIVAL '98

An Adult Equipping Team Event

- ◆ **Seniors Events**
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Lunch**
11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
(food booths)
- ◆ **Family Fair**
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Adult Conferences**
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Dinner**
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Singles Events**
7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Free Admission
Free Child Care**

For more information call Larry Salter or Glenn Shows,
at (601)968-3800 or (800)748-1651.

This festival is designed
to minister to the needs of:

- ◆ Senior Adults ◆ Married Adults ◆ Single Adults
- ◆ Youth ◆ Children ◆ Internationals

Directions to Parkway Baptist Church:

On I-20 west of Jackson, take exit 35 ("Clinton-Raymond Road"). Go north (the opposite direction from Camp Garaywa) one block. At Hwy. 80 turn left. (Hwy. 80 ends at this intersection. It becomes Frontage Road on the left.) Pass Woodmoor subdivision on the right (about a mile). Parkway Church's driveway is the first right turn after Woodmoor.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SENIORS EVENT (inside the church)

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Registration
- 9:00 a.m. **Senior Adult Rally**
John Bewley, Magic Show
Drama Group, FBC, Aberdeen
Ukulele Choir, Parkway B.C.
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. **Senior Adult Conference**
Bill Baker, Opening Prayer
Evelyn Gandy
J. Clark Hensley, Closing Prayer
- 11:30 a.m. Dismiss

LUNCH

11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Food booths available for entire time. Each vendor will charge for items. Vendors include Pizza Hut, Penn's, Mr. Turkey Leg (hot dogs, burgers, drumsticks, tea, lemonade, etc.).

FAMILY FAIR (outdoors - ends before conferences begin)

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Baptist Nursing Fellowship: Blood Pressure Checks, Eye Tests, Cholesterol Checks, Glucose Testing
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Booths (Interactive)
- Missionaries Around the World Booths
- Pony Rides
- Space Walk
- Storyteller
- Children's Village Games
- Youth Corner: Basketball-Shoot Game, Cheerleading Demonstrations, Baton-Twirling Lessons
- Clown/Face-Painting
- Dunking Booth
- Portrait Sketches (\$5 each)
- Disaster Relief Unit

ENTERTAINMENT DURING FAIR (main stage in tent)

- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. *Elvis (Tim Johnson)*
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. *Sam Gore, Sculpting Demonstration*
- 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. *John Bewley, Magic Show*
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. *Gents, Musicians*
- 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. *Jennie Ward, Clown Show*
- 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. *Matt Blagg and Band*

ADULT CONFERENCES (inside the church)

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- 4:00 p.m. Ministries Conferences (choose one to attend):
Marriage Conference, Jim Blackwell
College/Student Conference, Weaver McCracken
Christian Parenting, Ron Mumbower
Financial Hope for the Family, Hal Fisher
Internationals Family Enrichment, Diana Bridges
Marriage: Making Love Last Forever, Glenn Shows
Involving Your Family in Missions, Lorise Creel
How to Conduct Backyard Bible Clubs, Larry Salter
- 4:45 p.m. Break
- 5:00 p.m. *Life in the Spirit, Robertson McQuilkin*

DINNER

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Provided outside by Brotherhood. Cost: \$2

SINGLES EVENT (inside the church)

7:30 - 11:00 p.m.

- 7:30 p.m. Singles Conference Registration
- 8:00 p.m. Singles Conference
Divorce Recovery, Jim Doremus
Single Parenting, James Haynes
Fun Time with Singles, Tim Hopkins
- 8:45 p.m. Break
- 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. Singles Rally
Matt Blagg and Three-Piece Band
Michael Williams, Speaker

CHILD CARE PROVIDED (4:00 - 6:00; 7:30 - 11:00 p.m.)

Town and Country



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES

Designed for music leadership in smaller membership churches:

- bivocational/volunteer ministers of music
- choir members
- keyboard personnel.

Guest Clinician - Elmo Mercer

July 23 - 24	Riverside Baptist Church, Clarksdale 6:30 p.m., Thursday-noon, Friday
July 24 - 25	Clear Creek Baptist Church, Oxford 6:30 p.m., Friday-noon, Saturday
July 30 - 31	Bissell Baptist Church, Tupelo 6:30 p.m., Thursday-noon, Friday
July 31 - Aug. 1	Becker Baptist Church, Becker 6:30 p.m., Friday-noon, Saturday
Aug. 6-7	Glendale Baptist Church, Leland 6:30 p.m., Thursday-noon, Friday
Aug. 7 - 8	Enon Baptist Church, Grenada 6:30 p.m., Friday-noon, Saturday

Call the Church Music Department for more information or registration forms at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800, or register at the door at 6 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT '98



DUFFY ROBBINS

Same program — choose one to attend

July 24, 1998 • 7 p.m.

July 25, 1998 • 10 a.m.

MISSISSIPPI
FAIRGROUNDS
COLISEUM

SMALL TOWN POETS



Autograph signing party at the Baptist Book Store after Friday night program. 10 p.m. till midnight

Know God—
No Fear

A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED (a gift of \$1 per person is suggested)



VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

Remember to send in your report by August 15 for projects from August '97 - August '98

Each year the Brotherhood Department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the **number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc.** Please help us by reporting your church and/or associational involvement. Complete and return to us one of the forms below for each project in which your people participated (individuals, youth, music, adults, etc.).

☐ Church Project ☐ Association Project ☐ Individual Project

Your church and association: _____

Project Coordinator: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

TYPE OF PROJECT:

☐ Community ☐ In-state ☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

Project Location (State or County): _____

Number of volunteers in your group: _____ Dates: _____

TYPE OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

☐ Construction ☐ Medical/Dental ☐ VBS
☐ Evangelism ☐ Bible Clubs ☐ Survey
☐ Music ☐ Other _____

No. of decisions: _____ Professions of Faith _____ Other _____

Please mail by August to:

VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT, Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Pray this day for...

June 19- July 2, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil."

E.M. Bounds

Father's Day - If you want your children to take God seriously, guess what? You better take God seriously yourself. Pray that fathers will let their children know what they really value.

21

Christian Citizenship Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Annuity Board Sunday (Annuity Emphasis). Pray for two Thai Christians in Thailand who are facing great adversity.

28

The 400,000 Khorasani Turks, in northeastern Iran, are Muslims with no known Christian converts or evangelical activity. Pray that God's people will commit themselves to overcome language barriers and start an evangelical work among these people.

35

VI Youth Conference 22nd-26th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Missions isn't just for missionaries. Biblical missions involves mobilizing every Christian in every church as prayer warriors for the unfinished task.

GA Summer Camp 29th-July 3rd; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the WMU. Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp 29th-July 3rd; Central Hills Retreat Center; sponsored by the Brotherhood.

29

GA Summer Camp 6th-10th; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the WMU. Pray for the Christian ministries that are seeking innovative ways to minister to the needs of the grass-roots people in Taipei, Taiwan.

6

In China, an openness is often experienced in the summer which is not evident during the regular school term. Pray for the individual volunteers and the teams who will be teaching English. Pray that the people will be open and responsive to them.

HeartSong '98 30th-July 4th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Church Music Department. There are radio broadcasts available in the Dari language. Pray that the Good News will reach the airwaves of Central Asia and into the homes of the Tajiks in Iran.

33

Marshall Kennedy is a US/C-2 missionary serving as youth minister at Highland Park Baptist Church, Topeka, KS. Pray that he will have wisdom to coordinate the right activities for the youth. Pray about health problems that he is having.

7

In recent months, Macau has experienced a series of violent crimes related to the Chinese gangs that exist there. Pray that Christians will reach out to the gang members for Jesus Christ.

National Acteens Convention 1st-4th; Louisville, KY; sponsored by the WMU. Missionary Randy Bradley asks us to pray for his relationship with the pastors in the Santa Fe area of Argentina as he tries to be an encouragement to them.

24

Praise the Lord that there was a 52% decline in the number of pastor terminations in Mississippi during 1997. Pray that our churches will be more loving, caring and forgiving of our pastors and other church staff members instead of terminating them.

8

Ted is a chaplain of a truck stop ministry on I-20, Exit 71 in Columbia, SC. He holds services on Sundays and is also there every day. Pray that more volunteers will be involved and that more financial support will become available. Pray for the spiritual growth of new Christians. There were 56 decisions at the chapel last year.

A Kurdish woman recently came to faith in Jesus through a British Baptist who was teaching her how to speak English. Please pray as Baptist representatives Steve and Barbara James train the British person to disciple this new believer.

2

Music Leadership Conference 9th-11th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Church Music Department. Please be praying now for Youth Night Friday, July 24th and Saturday, July 25 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson; sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

3

GA Overnight (Grades 1-2 only); Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the WMU. Pray for business English training centers that are being established in key cities in China. Pray that they will lead to the training of leaders who will be involved in outreach.

Lad/Dad Weekend Camp 26th-27th; Central Hills Retreat Center; sponsored by the Brotherhood. Young Musicians Conference 26th-30th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

Missionaries John and Kathy McNair are using the "In the Family" videos as they direct two Bible study groups in Montevideo, Uruguay. Pray for the husband in a home where they held a Bible study.

26

3

American college students who are involved in Asian studies are in Tianjin, China, for a month and a half to study Chinese. Pray that those who are believers will have opportunities to minister and fruitfulness in witnessing.

Family Festival; Parkway BC, Clinton; sponsored by the Equipping Team. Pray for a Christian in Malinke whose unsaved family members will not allow the church to gather and pray in their home. Pray that the faithful witness of that believer will lead the others to acknowledge Christ.

Family Enrichment Conference 4th-8th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry. Independence Day -- praise God that in America we have religious liberty and separation of Church and State.

4

AUGUST



Please take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

5-77 MR. EVERETT D. PRESLEY
PO Box 4737, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Johnny & Beth, Religious Education
SERVE IN SOUTH BRAZIL

6-83 MISS AUDRA C. FUNDERBURK
BP 8417 - Yoff, Dakar, SENEGAL
Parents: Ricky & Lori, Mission Administration

12-78 MISS B. TRACY THOMAS
PO Box 4533, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Robert & Beverly, Hospital Administration
SERVE IN YEMEN

18-82 TIMOTHY STAMPS
Apartado 2340, Managua, NICARAGUA
Parents: Keith and Penny Stamps, General Evangelism

19-89 MISS ANDREA J. BAILEY
1060 CR 102, Vardaman, MS 38878
Parents: Kenneth and Ruth, Theological Education
SERVE IN BOLIVIA

28-86 MR. ROSS E. FUNDERBURK
BP 8417 - Yoff
Dakar, SENEGAL
Parents: Ricky & Lori
Mission Administration

28-79 MR. SHERIDAN COREY
7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520
Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance

31-82 MR. MARK W. HENDRICKS
Apartado 1010-7050, Cartago, COSTA RICA
Parents: Larry D. & Mary W., General Evangelism

Super Summer '98

July 20-24

Mississippi College, Clinton
with Rick Caldwell

TIME 2 -
Make a Difference

Super Summer
Mississippi
1998

For more information, call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651.

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Oak Grove Church, Lauderdale County, recently held its annual recognition service for GAs and Acteens. The theme was "Letting Our Light Shine." GAs pictured, (from left, front row) are Emma Hayes, Hannah Rice, Jessi Nester, Kaley Hull, Maliya Woodard; (middle row) Lesley Smith, Kara Hull, Lauren Horne, Tabitha McKee, Kacey Mott; (back row) Kacie Whitaker, Lesley Carr, Jennifer Blackwell, and Jennifer Ishee. Debbie Carr is the GA and Acteen leader.



Oak Grove Acteens

Acteens crowned were Lesley Smith, Queen, and Lesley Carr, Queen with Scepter.

Leaf River Church, Pineville, will present the dramatic presentation, "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames," July 12-14. Services will be 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. For more information, call (601) 789-5264.

AVALON, Nashville-based singing group, will present a concert at First Church, Yazoo City, June 21 at 6 p.m. Michael Passons, son of W. A. and Ruby Passons of Yazoo City, is a member of the team. For more information, call (601) 746-2471.

Single Adult Ministry of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will host the Comedy Club on June 26 from 7-10 p.m. at the Fad and Frames store located at the intersection of Old Canton Road and County Line Road,



Oak Grove GAs

Jackson. Mike Williams, a stand up comedian, will be featured. Musical entertainment for the evening will be provided by Ninth Hour. The cost is \$10. For more information call (601) 956-5000.

Como Church, Como, will host its Adult Bible Study, 6-8 p.m., on June 22-24. The Parables of Jesus will be taught by Norman Holliday, Vicar Sam Godfery, and Andy Brasher, pastor.



The youngest youth of Old Union Church, Shannon, had a bike and trike-a-thon to raise money for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. They raised a total of \$1,020. Pictured are Kyle Leslie, Coby Leslie, Lauren Mallory, Brooke Frederick, Hannah Waycaster, Ruth Ann Watson, Brittany Harris, Cassie Waycaster, Christopher Mallory, Jared Roberts, Seth Simmons, Sadie Simmons, William Reid, Kayla Reid, Amber Frederick, Courtney Floyd, and Meagan Rowland.



University students from First Church, Oxford, took a mission trip in May to Highlands Ranch, Colorado. They worked with Cornerstone Church in construction and neighborhood surveys to discover prospects. Front row, from left, are Elizabeth Stephens, Michael Atwood, Matt Copeland; second row, Jeff Holeman (youth minister), Leslie Gable, Jennifer Moak, Robert Allen, (minister of education), Angel Overstreet, and Reagan Schiefer.

VBS DATES

Old Union, Shannon: June 21-26; 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Friday night, commencement services; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

Leaf River, Pineville: June 22-26; 8:30 a.m.-12 noon; preschool age through 6th grade; commencement, Sunday, June 28 at 11 a.m., with lunch to follow.

Doty Chapel, Shannon: June 22-26; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; classes will be provided for all age children and adults; Chris Mason is pastor.

Bartahatchie, Caledonia: June 22-26; 6-8:30 p.m.; three years old through youth; for more information or a ride call (601) 369-9493.

Como, Como: June 22-25; 6-8 p.m.; nurse, Andy Brasher, pastor.

Staff Changes

Bethel Church, Monticello, has called **Todd Sullens** as minister of youth effective June 1. A native of Columbus, Ga., Sullens is a graduate of Columbus State University and a student at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Bethesda Church, Columbus, Ga.

COMMUNITY BANK has joined hands with **RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH** to sponsor the **2nd Annual Retired Minister's Benefit Golf Tournament** **SEPT. 10 AND 11, 1998** **BROOKWOOD COUNTRY CLUB**

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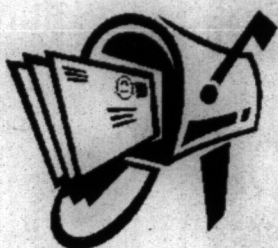
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

MS Positions Available

PASTOR: Eastside Baptist Church, Pelahatchie, MS. Send resume to: 146 Conger Dr., Pelahatchie, MS 39145

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER: University Baptist Church, 3200 West Arlington Loop, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Primary responsibilities are planning and implementing youth activities and ministries. Leadership of the youth music ministry is a possibility but not requirement. Interested women or men, 25 years of age or older, may mail a letter and resume to Personnel Committee.

MUSIC MINISTER: Part-time Position available. Send resume to North McComb Baptist Church; 504 Laurel Street; McComb MS 39648-2932 or call (601) 684-5214.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Robert Cross was licensed to the ministry at First Church, Waynesboro, on May 24. Pictured (from left) are Cross and DeJuan Walley, pastor. Cross is available for youth ministry. To contact him, call (601) 735-4441.



Eric Smith and **Justin Howell** were recently licensed to the ministry by Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. Both men are students at William Carey College. Pictured (from left) are Smith; Jerry Mixon, pastor; and Howell.

AUTHENTIC PROFESSIONS

Editor:

In the May 28 (issue) we were informed that the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has almost reached 16 million members. "On any given Sunday," according to the article, "an average of 5.2 million" attend morning worship (i.e., 33% of SBC members are found in church for Sunday morning services).

The reason church rolls are filled with "non-active" members is because the majority are "non-regenerate." Our evangelistic practices have failed us. We use non-scriptural phrases in our evangelism ("make a decision for Christ") instead of scriptural ones ("repent and believe"). We ask, "How many of you want to go to heaven?" when we ought to be asking, "How many of you want to be reconciled to a Holy God?"

The Gospel is received as "good news" by the sinner who has understood the "bad news." If we would share the Gospel, including the message of the righteousness of God and his wrath against sin, and allow the Holy Spirit to work those truths into the heart instead of hastily inviting people "to pray



Floyd W. Davis (right), native of Summit and pastor of New Hope Mission, McComb, received the Outstanding Student Award for the associate's degree program at New Orleans Seminary during the annual Celebration of Excellence May 6. Presenting the award is Jimmy Dukes, dean of undergraduate faculty.

this prayer after me," we would probably see fewer "professions," but at least what we would see would be authentic.

Michael Williams, pastor
Ebenezer Church, Senatobia

BLITZ SUCCESSFUL

Editor:

The recent Tunica Missions Blitz was a wonderful success.

We were able to contact every home in Tunica County with a New Testament and a Gospel tract, and many times we presented a personal witness.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board personnel played a major role in making it happen. I personally appreciate Glenn Shows, Sonny Adkins, Tim Nicholas, Larry Salter, Paul Harrell, and all the many others



Russ Donald was recently licensed to the ministry by Crossview Church, Brandon. He is interim minister of youth at Crossview Church. Pictured (from left) are Donald and Don Williams, pastor.

who were personally involved, as well as the many who were indirectly involved.

We saw souls saved, racial unity experienced, and many commitments. We saw black and white; Protestants and Catholic; Baptist, Presbyterian, and other denominations working together in the spirit of unity and love.

M. C. Johnson, Chairman
Tunica Mission Blitz

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

First Church, Hazlehurst, recently held an award ceremony for mission organizations. RAs, grades 1-6, (pictured from left, front row) are Stephen Bozeman, Langston Berry, Nicholas Lambert, Bryan Jones, Hank Jordan, Joshua Scruggs, Bo Wilson; (second row) Eric Walker, Jordan Newman, Preston Berry, Daniel Henderson, Trey Fischer, Alex Guess, Jake Guess; (third row) Matthew Lambert, Randle Scruggs, Phil Walker, Michael Newman, Lucas DeLaRiva, Jay Keywood, Mark Jones, Chase Davis, Clark Little; (fourth row) leaders Jerry Keywood, Randy Hankins, Art Stevens, and Mark Henderson. Not pictured are Phillip Douglas, Stephen Assink, Brandon Paul Brooks, and Nick Newman.

GAs recognized were (front row, from left) Cathryn Cartwright, Jessie Smith, Brooke Deaton, Laura Higdon, Virginia Little; (second row) Emily Higdon, Rebecca Hankins, Brittany Newman, April Odom, Katie Jackson; (third row) Julie Hankins, and Ashley Newman. Leaders are Tracy Fischer and Rita Jackson. Director is Sherry Davis. Not pictured are Hannah Jordan, Erica Douglas, Olivia Gibson, and Whitney Prestwood.

Acteens recognized were (from left) Alice Claire Thompson, Laura Jackson, Stacy Odom, and Ashlea Brooks. Also pictured are Kim Henderson, leader (far left), and Brenda Bell, WMU director (top center).

Robert M. Hanvey is pastor of First Church, Hazlehurst.



First, Hazlehurst RAs



First, Hazlehurst GAs



First, Hazlehurst Acteens

REVIVAL DATES

Doty Chapel, Shannon: June 28-July 1; 7 p.m.; Chris Mason, pastor, will be the speaker.

Midway, Moss Point: July 6-12; 7 p.m.; Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson

Association, evangelist; Don Cawthon, Moss Point, music; Ralph Young, pastor.

Glade, Laurel: June 28-July 1; services, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Mike Thompson, pastor.

Pleasant Grove, Gore Springs: June 21-26; services begin at 7 p.m.; different speakers each night; Neil T. Gant, pastor; for more information call (601) 226-1732.

Ingomar, New Albany: June 21-24; Jimmy Russell, Longview Church, evangelist; James Francis, West Heights Church, music; J. Bruce Dillenger, interim pastor.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Two teams received awards at the 1998 William Carey College (WCC) Ministers' Golf Tournament held at Timberton Golf Course in Hattiesburg recently. Pictured (from left) are Dennis Johnsey, pastor of Florida Blvd. Church, Baton Rouge, La., and partner Steve Knight, WCC Men's Basketball Head Coach; and Rex Yancey, pastor of the First Church, Pascagoula, and partner Roger Alewine, pastor of First Church, Gulfport. For information about the annual tournament contact Larry Kennedy, interim president of WCC, at 1-800-962-5991, ext. 115.



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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The people God calls

1 Peter 2:1-12

By William H. Sims, III

The story is told of a soldier who was brought before Alexander the Great for court-martial. The great world conqueror turned to the soldier facing condemnation, and said, "What is your name?" "Alexander!" was the reply. "Alexander!" The great general angrily replied, "Either change your conduct or change your name. No man can bear the name of Alexander, and do the things that you have done."

The name "Christian" truly reflects the name of Christ. With this powerful word, come awesome responsibilities. Every deed must reflect the nature of Jesus.

Demands as a Christian (2:1-3). Peter warned his readers to lay aside actions harmful to others. Our sin not only affects our life, but also the life of others. Peter reminded them in (1:23-25) the responsibilities of this wonderful new life. The term "malice" denotes a vicious disposition. The word "guile" has special reference to deceitful speech designed to discredit another person. The plural "hypocrisies" is a reference to acts designed to impress others. "Envy" often find expression in evil speaking by depreciating another individual. The consecrated Christian does not talk others down. Peter urged his readers to push aside

this trash and whet their appetites on genuine nourishment. Our spiritual diet is a full measure of God's holy Word. This steady diet will produce healthy believers who lift up the brotherhood rather than tearing down. By accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, they had taken a genuine taste of his grace, and desired more nourishment from the holy Word.

Demands as a Christian priest (2:4-8). Peter used a bold figure of speech in describing Christ. The phrase "a living stone" shares how Christ is the foundation stone of our faith, and he is very much alive. The theme of the rejected stone occurs also in the Old Testament. Notice Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14. Those who accept Christ also become living stones. These Christians who were living stones became a spiritual house

engaged in serving God. The spiritual sacrifices offered by every believer should be an obedient life. As a pastor, the blessings are rich when church members sacrifice their all on the altar. We are to sacrifice our time, talents, and treasures in a manner that will please the living Lord.

Defining the Christian's purpose (2:9-10). Peter addressed his readers with a charge from Exodus 19:5-6. Peter was delivering God's commands to his new Israel, composed of both Jews and Gentiles. To call Christians a "chosen generation" suggested that they are a group chosen by God for special service. This service is to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The greatest privilege we have as believers is to proclaim the good news all around the world. The good news must always reflect the praise and honor belonging only to God. The word "peculiar" does not mean weird. We are

God's possession because we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Every day God's people should "show forth" or make known the praises of God. God has redeemed us from darkness and brought us into his marvelous light. Peter used terminology from Hosea 1:9; 2:23 to emphasize the contrast between what his readers once were and what joy they had now received.

Developing as a Christian (2:11-12). Every believer has a daily responsibility to be obedient to God. This obedience will produce a life that will lead others to Jesus. No one is immune from sharing the good news to a lost and dying world. We may have various methods, but the message remains the same, Jesus saves! May our prayer be: Believing God's word, seeking God's will, walking God's way. This is life lived to the fullest.

Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

How can I help?

Job 2:11; 4:1, 6-7; 8:1-6; 13:1-4

By Nancie E. Simmons

Have you ever been in a situation where you were wrongly accused? Think about the innocent people that have been sent to prison for a crime that they did not commit. It is very frustrating when you know you are telling the truth. Job's three friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar wrongly accused him of sinning, and in the end Job became very frustrated!

Well-meaning friends (2:11). Job was in pain both emotionally and physically. He was mourning the loss of his children and now he was sick with "sores." His three friends came to be with him even though he was considered "unclean," and then

they started crying when they saw his appearance. Next they sat in silence with him for seven days and nights which was the way people mourned the death of a close friend, but Job was not dead.

When there is a death in our lives our neighbors and friends immediately respond. They join together to bring us LOTS of food, plants, gifts, etc. in order to help. Sometimes they just travel long distances to be with us at the funeral to show their support. People let us know that they care about us by doing these things. It helps to have people near us in troubling times.

Misguided friends (4:1, 6-7). In order to help Job, his friends

began to offer advice and solutions as to why he was suffering. Eliphaz believed that Job must have sinned in some way because God does not punish innocent people. (Of course he did not know of Satan's plans against Job.) He urged Job to ask God for forgiveness and repent of his sins.

Today we sometimes assume that bad things will happen to bad people and good things will happen to good people. We think that this is what is fair. Good things happen to bad people and bad things do happen to good people. Remember this world is full of sin and sin causes bad things to happen. No one is exempt from tragedy no matter how one lives his life.

Defensive friends (8:1-6). Bildad also believed that Job's punishment was because of sins he had committed. He believed that Job's children were pun-

ished because of their sins. Bildad went on to defend God for letting these things happen to Job. He said that those who went their own way without God usually died, and Job needed to ask forgiveness for his sins to make things right again.

God needs to get our attention sometimes. When we start doing things we want, God gently reminds us that we need to obey him. Proverbs 3:11-12 says not to despise the Lord's discipline because he punishes the ones he loves. If God did not love us he would not take the time to redirect our paths.

Rebuked friends (13:1-4). Job listened to all of his friends accuse him of sinning. They were only trying to help him, not hurt him. Frustrated, Job exclaimed that he would discuss this with God. His friends assumed they knew the solution to Job's suffering, but they were not accurate in this situation.

It is hard for me to pour my

heart out to someone I know will constantly interrupt me with questions and negative comments. I'd rather keep my problem to myself! As friends we need to be very careful in the way we help someone because our help could do more harm than good. Sometimes praying or listening is the best way to help someone in need.

Unfortunately our friends will not always help us in the most appropriate way. God is the best listener and problem-solver. I make the mistake so often of discussing my problems with those around me instead of taking it straight to the Father. He will not wrongly accuse us or say things to hurt us, and he will always forgive us. We just have to ask him because he can hear us anytime and anywhere. Praise God! Who is the best helper!

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

LIFE AND WORK

Apathy

Romans 12:11; Revelation 3:14-22

By Kevin Hand

A researcher conducting an opinion survey asked people the question, "Would you agree that the two biggest problems facing our nation are ignorance and apathy?" One respondent replied amusingly, "I don't know and I don't care!"

For many Christians, the problem is not ignorance—it is spiritual apathy. Apathy is a lack of feeling, an absence of passion, emotion, or excitement. Spiritual apathy is basically an unconcern or indifference about the things of God. Apathetic Christians go through the religious motions without any feeling or emotion. They serve the Lord out of habit or obligation, rather than love, and their emotion-less service quickly becomes a burden

rather than a joy. Their relationship with the Lord grows distant, and their spiritual growth grinds to a screeching halt. Therefore, it is important for apathetic Christians to be roused from their indifference and recapture spiritual enthusiasm.

Principle (Rom. 12:11). Most people are passionate about something. It may be sports, work, hobbies, or relationships. Paul urged the Roman Christians to be passionate about God. He told them to "never be lacking in zeal, but keep [their] spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (v. 11, NIV). The Greek word translated "zeal" (NIV) has the idea of diligence and earnestness. The term "fervor" comes from the

Greek word *zeo* meaning "to be hot, boiling over." The idea is that Christians should be "on fire" for God and serve him enthusiastically.

The term "enthusiasm" comes from the Greek *en* meaning "in" and *theos* meaning "God." Because the Spirit of God dwells within us, we should radiate joy and be passionate about God. Enthusiasm signifies his presence in our lives.

Problem (Rev. 3:14-17a). Jesus accused the Laodicean church members of being lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. As a result of their tepid condition, Jesus would spit them out of his mouth.

An indifferent, apathetic attitude toward God is worse than total disdain for him. As author William Hague pointed out long ago, "The opposite of love is not hate; it is something much worse than that; hate with all its negation and emotion at least takes the other into account; the opposite of love is something

much cooler, more pallid, and really much more cruel, the opposite of love is indifference."

The Laodiceans' apathy stemmed from their conviction that they were rich and needed nothing. They said, "[We] do not need a thing" (v. 17, NIV). Christians today can become apathetic in their service for Christ when they feel self-sufficient and secure. In addition, they may lose their spiritual passion for reasons such as weariness, disillusionment, or discouragement.

Spiritual apathy is a serious matter. Why? Because apathy has the potential to sour relationships, including our relationship to God. It can render us defenseless, defeated, unfruitful, and unusable. Furthermore, spiritual apathy can harm the cause of Christ. One preacher remarked, "Twenty lukewarm Christians hurt the cause of Christ more than one blatant atheist."

Prescription (Rev. 3:17b-22). The Laodicean believers did not realize that instead of being

rich and secure, they actually were poverty-stricken and destitute. Jesus counseled them to receive his resources and to repent. When they repented, he would restore fellowship with them. He would reward people who persevered in their faith.

For those who want to recapture their passion for God and commit to strengthening their enthusiasm in his service, there is hope. With God's help you can overcome apathy. You must first realize the seriousness of your condition. Be honest. Own up to it. Then repent and ask Christ to help you see life from his point of view. Give careful attention to time alone with God in prayer and Bible study. Settle for nothing less than a vital, passionate relationship with God.

For a helpful discussion of conditions that threaten our spiritual passion, along with principles to help us renew our passion, read Gordon MacDonald's *Renewing Your Spiritual Passion* (Thomas Nelson).

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. Elizabeth H. Lumpkin
Dorothy Pearson
Mr. Lonnie Sims
Mrs. Leslie Phillips
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Mrs. Doris G. Boyer
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Capps Jr.
Mrs. Virginia B. Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Dubard
Shillito Families
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Ferriss
Mr. & Mrs. Tim V. Foley Jr.
The Ghosal Jililnik
Mr. Glen Robertson
Mrs. Lawrence L. Stewart
Linda Strong
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Walker
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Cooke Jr.
Mr. Roger L. Holland
Martha Virginia St. John
Mr. & Mrs. Henry LeRosen
Mrs. Carolyn Cox Stafford
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Booth
Tommy Jean Goodman Steed
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Mrs. Madge Stuart
Miss. River Commission Benefit
Mrs. Marie Suares
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering

Lloyd Tanner, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard
Thomas E. Tate
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar E. Arthur
Marguerite Terral
Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. McMurchy
Jack Thomas
Sr. Adult Men's Class Hebron BC
Leta Thrash
John & Deloris Bankston Linam
Mrs. Ada Tropp
Gray, Bonnie, Jane Gray & Morgan Wiggers
Mrs. J. W. Turner, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Grenn Jr.
Dr. Thomas R. Tutor
Herman, Sheron & Christopher Coats
Willie Bob Tyer
Mr. & Mrs. Larry S. Benson
Bob & Jennie Tyre
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Jose Luis De La Vega
Mr. & Mrs. Steven W. Davis
Mrs. Mary Waldrup
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Davis
Ange & Val Soldevila & Family
Teresa Dear, Rachel & Zachary
Mary Cathryn & Ron Hammac & Amanda
Barbara & Rebecca Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Woods
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Blair
Mr. & Mrs. Roland P. Gough

Retired Child Care workers, Don and Margie Williams, continue to represent The Baptist Children's Village as they share at a recent conference hosted by FBC, Greenville.

Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hardy
Mrs. Mary Walker
Ladies Bible Class Prentiss BC
Mr. Frank Wall
Southwest MS Community College
Dr. & Mrs. Horace Holmes
Mrs. Lorena B. Newman
Mrs. Mildred Wallace
Mary Ann Regan
Mr. & Mrs. Freddy Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson
Leonard Warren
Mrs. Ruthie M. Warren
Daisy Waters
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
Mrs. Daisy Waters
T.E.L. SSC Springfield BC
Mr. William Watts, Sr.
Ms. Sarah E. Jones
Mrs. Ira B. Welch
Craig Badon & Family
Tommy Badon & Family
Mrs. Ather White
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry T. Johnson
Mr. Earl Williams
Bovina Baptist Church
Mr. James Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Alexander
Mr. Travis Williams
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Mr. W. L. "Willie" Williams
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Grenn Jr.
Mrs. Jacquelyn B. Meadows
Mr. & Mrs. George P. Pope
Mr. Harold Wilson
Spring Hill Baptist Church
Mrs. Laura M. Wilson
Mrs. Fred S. Young
Ms. Christine Black

Mr. Jesse Wofford
William & Ann Espy
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Hill
Mr. Johnny Woodall
Ms. Beatrice J. Woodall
Mavis Woolf
Ms. Martha Putnam
Mrs. Leonard D. Wright, Sr.
Mrs. Eleanor B. Bass
Fred Yates, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Will Polk
Mrs. Edna Mae Ziegler
Jennifer (Jill) Pulliam

MAY 1-30, 1998 MEMORIALS

Bro. Tommy Tator
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W. Edmondson
Daughter of Mrs. Margie Lowery
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lammons
J. R. Chaney
Josh, Justin & Kristin Chaney
Mother of Mrs. Bessie Saway
Mrs. Bessie Saway
William B. Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Greg W. Carpenter
Mrs. Ouida Abercrombie
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Knight
Bobby Abraham
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Pearson
Mr. Bobby Abraham
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion
Mrs. Betty Abraham
Mrs. Belle G. Pearson
Joe Abrams
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.
N. M. "Bill" Adams
Mrs. Ruby G. Hollingsworth
Ellis Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd
Mrs. Emily Denson Alexander
Mr. Wendell Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Gedge F. Pettie
Mrs. Robert (Bess) Anderson
Ms. Alice S. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Young Jr.
Mrs. Thelma Anderson
Mr. Charles Ziek
Mrs. Lucy Lee Harkins Ashcraft
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Martin

MAY 1-30, 1998 HONORS

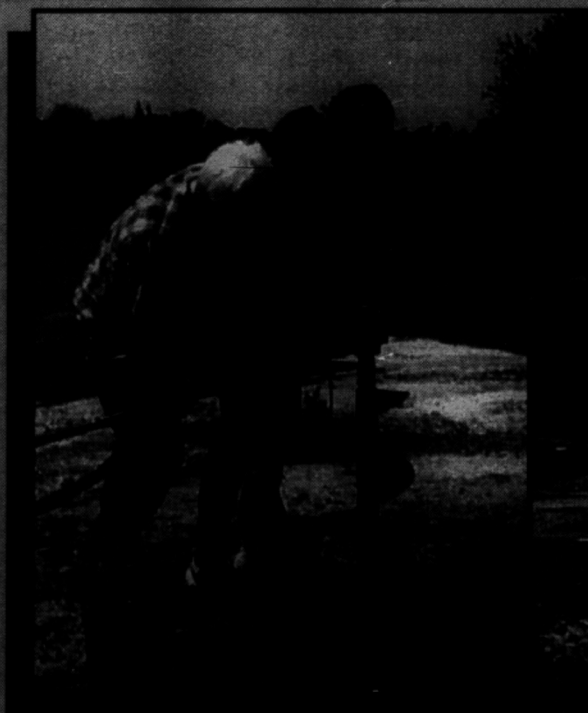
Dr. & Mrs. Ron Kirkland
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis
Rev. & Mrs. Jerry Sanford
Mr. & Mrs. Ray L. Moore Fun Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Byars
Ms. Rachel J. Sullivan
Mr. Hampton Gaston
Mr. & Mrs. Michael H. Little
Etta V. Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Vance Burke
Mrs. Mildred Noland
Eloise Crossley SSC FBC-Columbus
Ann O'Hare
Ms. Imogene Miller
Bro. & Mrs. Ken Strickland
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry
Bernice O. Wicker
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Bob and Dora Worthen
Mrs. Mildred Rooker

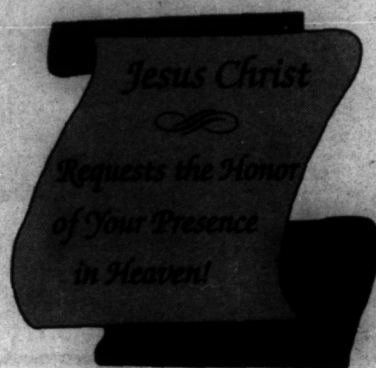
The Baptist Children's Village was again the recipient of volunteer labor provided through the Corporate Community Service Week.

Volunteers this year helped by painting, assembling bulk mail and landscaping.

Thank you, friends,
for your time
and your delightful spirits.

Both the labor
and the fellowship
were appreciated.





YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FRAD NA QBA KTQAW,
QBTQ QBA OZKBQAFSW
DTQZFD GBZMB
IAARAQB QBA QOSQB
JTN ADQAO ZD.

ZWTZTB QGADQN-

WZU: QGF

Clue: N = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Peter Two Nine.

Radio program leads inmate to salvation

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP) — Christians in many countries are often prohibited from entering prisons to share the gospel with the incarcerated. But radio waves carrying the good news of salvation pass beyond the wire fences and iron bars.

The message of the "Family Harmony" program produced by Baptists in El Salvador has penetrated prison walls and the hearts of thousands of people across El Salvador and Guatemala. In the 13 years the program has aired, more than 120,000 requests have been received for assorted materials and Bible studies. An average of 20 people per month write indicating they've received Christ as a result of the ministry.

At least one person has even come by the small office located in the corner of the Baptist Bookstore in San Salvador, the capital city, to say thanks.



The young Colombian man had been running drugs from El Salvador to Guatemala. As he was about to cross the border on one trip, his five illegal passports and 85 kilos of cocaine were discovered by police. He eventually was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

There he heard the "Family Harmony" program broadcasting teachings about Jesus. He responded to the program's offer and received Christian lit-

erature and a Bible study titled, "Abundant Life." Soon after, he dedicated his life to Christ and encouraged other inmates to study the Bible with him and to listen to "Family Harmony." Just four years into his sentence, he was released. He stopped by the "Family Harmony" office to express his gratitude for the ministry that led him to Christ.

He was on his way back to Colombia to share Jesus with his family.

Salvadoran Baptists also produce a short children's program titled "Tia Sofia" (Aunt Sophie) carried on secular stations as well. Pushpins in a large map of El Salvador and Guatemala indicate locations from where mail sent by children has come. Of the 1,400-plus letters received in a recent month, more than 750 were from children. Office staff respond to every letter in an effort to lead people throughout the region to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Commentary: Geologic facts disprove Morris hypotheses

By David T. Dockery III, member
Pocohontas Church, Jackson

On page 12 of the June 11 edition of The Baptist Record was an article entitled, "Experts reconsider geologic evidence," in which Henry Morris was quoted at length.

Henry Morris, president of the Institute for Creation Research (ICR), has been "reconsidering" geology at least as early as 1967 when he published his book "The Genesis Flood." This book claims that thousands of feet of sedimentary rocks were neatly sorted out into layers, each containing their own characteristic fossils, by the 40-day Noahic Flood. At question here is not the truth of the Genesis Flood or the veracity of the Bible, but trying to prove the Bible with bad theories.

In claiming the earth to be only a few thousand years old, Morris and ICR staff deny what our eyes see. The Earth's sedimentary layers contain not only layers of sand and clay deposited by water erosion, but also limestones that accumulated slowly on the sea floor and, below the surface in southern Mississippi, a thousand feet of salt deposited when the ancient Gulf of Mexico dried up. A Placid exploration well at Edwards drilled through 25,000 feet of sedimentary rock before reaching this salt.

Not only do Morris' ideas contradict geology, but they also contradict basic principles of physics, astronomy, and meteorology. In "The Genesis Flood," Morris stated that an ocean of water once existed as a vapor layer in the upper atmosphere before it rained down to cover the earth in the Noahic Deluge. This is physically impossible as the air thins with height and holds less water than it does near the surface. Also, an ocean of water pressing down on the air we breathe would create tremendous pressure such as is found only on the deep-sea floor.

Morris mainly wishes to deny that the earth is any older than a few thousand years, even though the fossil record shows that whole communities of plants and animals have come and gone many times since the earth's creation. Also, radiometric ages show rocks to be millions to billions of years old. Rocks from the moon and those that fall as meteorites have a consistent age of 4.5 billion years. Light from distant galaxies has traveled billions of years to reach us. Annual snow-accumulation layers in ice cores from Antarctica and Greenland give the earth's weather history over the last 200,000 years.

Morris is not defending the Bible, but his interpretation of Genesis and the length of the six-day Creation. Many other conservative Christian scholars, such as C. I. Scofield and J. Vernon McGee, believed the earth to be old. Even Moses, who wrote Genesis, says of God in Psalm 90, "For a thousand years in thy sight are as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." Peter agreed in 2 Peter 3:8 — "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

For a better conservative Christian view on the age of the Earth I would recommend Hugh Ross' book, "Creation and Time" by NavPress (Colorado Springs, 1994).

Dockery is chief of the Surface Geology Division of the Mississippi Office of Geology in Jackson.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My 16-year-old son comes home at 3 a.m. with blood on his clothes. I suspect he is involved with animal sacrifice. What should I do?

ers who has experience in encouraging reluctant young people to get involved.

Animal sacrifice involves ritual, a sense of community, and power. If a 16-year-old seeks anything from life at his age, it is those three things. Your son is in need of large doses of love and attention.

RITUALS

What are the rituals in your household? Do you attend church together? Are meals taken as a family? How do you celebrate birthdays and accomplishments? Do you attend school events in which he is involved? Positive, wholesome family activities promote security and stability in a child's mind, as well as pride in family traditions. When children learn to live by standards in the home, they learn to live by standards outside the home as well.

COMMUNITY

It is important for a child to be a part of something bigger than himself. He will inevitably find a group to which he can belong, so steer him in the direction of church groups, Boy Scouts, sports clubs, etc. If he won't go, talk with a youth minister, scoutmaster, and other youth lead-

POWER
Young people want to feel empowered, to feel competent at something. If your son is involved in animal sacrifice, it is probably because killing brings a sense of power and domination. The quest for power is part of the male psyche and must be properly channelled. One suggestion is to arrange for your son to go hunting with a mentor or positive role model who can explain God's creation and man's place in that creation. There are other ways to satisfy his need for power. Setting and achieving goals can create a feeling of success and control. Encourage your son to do his best, and acknowledge his accomplishments.

Your son is crying out for attention. Give it to him now before he finds it elsewhere. Spend quality time with him, refrain from coming down hard on him when he makes mistakes, and hang in there with him as he struggles to define himself. Remember that you are battling the great enemy, who is always looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Use your relationship with your son to show him the most excellent way (1 Cor. 12:31-13:13).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.